Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 05971 251454Z

46
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 TRSE-00 L-03 CAB-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00

SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 OMB-01 /071 W
---------- 043722
R 241502Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9886
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5971

TREASURY FOR N. JACKLIN

DOT FOR W. DRISCOLL, OAC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO
SUBJECT: ICAO DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON REVISION OF HAGUE
PROTOCOL TO WARSAW CONVENTION

REF: STATE 146446 (NOTAL)

1. I THINK POSSIBILITY THAT TREASURY COULD ACCEPT "AIR BASKET" ADDS A VERY WELCOME MEASURE OF FLEXIBILITY TO U. S. BARGAINING POSITION. IN THE END, SUCH A SOLUTION COULD PROVE ESSENTIAL TO OVERCOME SOVIET BLOC OBJECTIONS TO CHANGE IN POINCARE' FRANC CLAUSE, ESPECIALLY IF RUBLE CAN SOMEHOW BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. APPRECIATE THE INFORMATION THAT THIS POSSIBILITY SHOULD NOT BE FORECLOSED.

2. U.S.G., OF COURSE, INITIATED SDR SOLUTION FOR GUATEMALA PROTOCOL WHICH, BASED ON RECENT CABLES AND DISCUSSIONS, IS RECEIVING A SNOWBALLING SUPPORT. OTHERS MAY FURTHER ARGUE THAT WIDESPREAD SUBSTITUTION OF SDR FOR US DOLLAR AS UNIT OF ACCOUNT IN PRIVATE TRANSACTIONS IS BASIS FOR EMBRACING, NOT REJECTING, SDRS. AND CERTAIN AGENCIES WITHIN USG, DOT IN PARTICULAR, ARE PRESSING FOR A UNIVERSAL SUBSTITUTE TO POINCARE' FRANC CLAUSE,
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 05971 251454Z

TAKING THE ROLE LATTER HAS HAD AS SINGLE METHOD FOR EXPRESSING

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

LIMITS IN ALL TRANSPORTATION CONVENTIONS. THIS AVOIDS
COMPLEXITY OF SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS ON UNIT OF ACCOUNT FORMULA
FOR EVERY CONVENTION, WHICH ALSO RISKS RESULTS DIFFERING
SUBSTANTIALLY FROM EACH OTHER. SDR COULD BE BASIS FOR SUCH A
UNIVERSAL CLAUSE BUT "AIR BASKET" FORMULA CLEARLY WOULD NOT.

3. TREASURY WILL APPRECIATE THAT USG COULD NOT VOTE AGAINST
AN SDR CLAUSE, IF OTHERS PRESS FOR ADOPTION, AFTER, IN PAST
2 MONTHS, HAVING GONE TO NEARLY 30 COUNTRIES SEEKING
CO-SPONSORSHIP OF PROPOSAL FOR SDRS (INCLUDING 4 ARAB COUNTRIES),
CALLED INFORMAL MEETING AT MONTREAL TO ADVANCE SUCH SOLUTION,
CIRCULATED OUTLINE SDR CLAUSE INFORMALLY AT MONTREAL AND RECENT
LMCO LEGAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN LONDON, MADE FORMAL STATEMENT RE
SDRS WHICH IS ANNEX TO REPORT OF ICAO MONTREAL MEETING WHICH HAS
BEEN CIRCULATED TO ALL ICAO MEMBER STATES AS ADVANCE DOCUMENTATION
FOR SEPT CONFERENCE, AND PRESSED ATA AND IATA CARRIERS TO CAMPAIGN
FOR SDRS. U.S. COULD OF COURSE MOVE TO MUCH LESS VISIBLE ROLE
ON ADVOCACY OF SDRS (SEE MY CABLE FROM LONDON CONTAINING SUGGES-
TION THAT A GROUP OF COUNTRIES NOT INCLUDING U. S.
PUT FORWARD SDR PROPOSAL AT MONTREAL), BUT OTHERS MAY ARGUE IT IS
TOO LATE FOR THAT.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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